**Plans for Educating Coconut Farmers**

7427. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific plans proposed to be formulated by Coconut Development Board to educate coconut farmers on better marketing possibilities;

(b) whether Coconut Development Board will encourage formation of cooperative marketing societies for coconut marketing; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Coconut Development Board provides guidelines to farmers, entrepreneurs etc. for processing, marketing and export of coconut and its products. Potential buyers and suppliers of various coconut products within the country and outside are linked for better marketing. National and State level Seminar on Marketing and Processing of Coconut were conducted by the Board to educate the growers and processors. Market Intelligence is also disseminated through publications. The Board also proposes to conduct a National level study on production, demand and export potential of coconut and its products.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Non-Inclusion of Tobacco Under Subsidy Sprinkler Irrigation**

7428. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not included tobacco cultivation for subsidy available for sprinkler irrigation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what other crops will be given subsidy for sprinkler irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (a) and (b) Tobacco Board of the Ministry of Commerce provides sprinkler irrigation sets on subsidy basis to growers for cultivation of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco in the light soils.

(c) The assistance is provided for sprinkler irrigation sets in pulses, oilseeds, paddy, wheat, coarse-cereals and cotton crops.

**Agricultural Investment in Northern States**

7429. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the total amount of investment made by Government in the field of agriculture in Northern States during the Seventh and Eights Five Year Plans;

(b) the investment made during that period in other States of Eastern, Sourthern and Western region;

(c) the steps taken to remove regional imbalance while making investment on Agriculture; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Planning is responsible for bringing out estimates of Investment in Agriculture at All-India level only. However, as per the latest available information from States a Statement is Annexed (*See* Appendix-173, Annexure No. 161.)

(c) and (d) The various Centrally sponsored programmes taken up by the Central Government not only supplement the efforts of State Governments in raising agricultural probduction, but also aims at fulfilling national objectives and removed or reducing variations in development and growth. These are also designed as innovative or pilot programmes for accelerating the pace of development. The